

ENERGY NEWS

From the Iowa Department of Natural Resources
February and March 2003

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Governor Vilsack Proposes Renewable Energy Goal for Iowa

In his annual Condition of the State of Address this January, Governor Tom Vilsack established renewable energy as a priority for economic growth in the state.

Gov. Vilsack recommended developing a \$500 million “Iowa Values Fund” to create new opportunities for economic development in Iowa. Through the fund, Vilsack proposed expanding electricity production from wind, solar and biomass to 1,000 megawatts per year by 2010. Currently, about 200 megawatts of Iowa’s electricity production comes from renewable energy resources.

Renewable energy growth is part of four key priorities established for Iowa’s future progress: a transformed economy, continuous improvement to education, expanded access to healthcare and other community services, and renewed commitment to the environment.

For more information about Gov. Vilsack’s goals for Iowa, go to: www.governor.state.ia.us

Iowa’s Ethanol Market Share Breaks Two Records

Ethanol-blends reached 61.7 percent of all taxable gasoline sold in Iowa in December 2002, and was 55 percent of the total for the entire 2002 year. These mark the highest market shares ever for a single month and year in Iowa for the renewable fuel.

“Iowans increasingly are choosing ethanol-blends at the pump,” said Jennifer Moehlmann, energy data analyst at the DNR. “Ethanol production helps our economy grow while replacing imported fuels with locally grown resources.”

Iowa’s 10 ethanol plants have the capacity to produce 624 million gallons of ethanol per year, about 23 percent of the nation’s ethanol production. Additionally, seven more plants are planned for construction in the next two years.

For more information, contact Jennifer Moehlmann with the DNR at (515) 281-8518; e-mail: Jennifer.Moehlmann@dnr.state.ia.us

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Environmental Awards Honor Five Iowa Leaders

Five Iowa organizations and businesses received environmental excellence awards from Gov. Tom Vilsack at a ceremony Feb. 7 in Des Moines. The recognition is part of program honoring Iowans for their leadership and innovation in protecting Iowa's natural resources.

"I congratulate these Iowans for their outstanding work to protect and enhance our environment," Vilsack said. "Their commitment and leadership are examples to us all, helping to further our state's natural resource goals especially toward improved water quality."

The awards program recognizes comprehensive environmental programs by organizations, along with special project awards in water quality, air quality, waste management, habitat restoration/development, and energy efficiency/renewable energy. The six winners were chosen from 40 nominations and include:

Environmental Excellence Award: Firestone Agricultural Tire, Des Moines, for numerous environmental improvements to save energy and reduce waste in manufacturing processes and facilities, resulting in millions of pounds of avoided landfill waste and hundreds of thousands of dollars in energy savings.

Special Recognition in Energy Efficiency/Renewable Energy: Five Seasons Transportation and Parking, Cedar Rapids, for converting its entire 50-bus fleet to run on biodiesel, a renewable energy resource that reduces air pollution.

Special Recognition in Waste Management: West Branch Middle School, West Branch, for a seventh-grade class that spearheaded a project to collect used oil filters from local residents and recycle used oil.

Special Recognition in Water Quality: Iowa Children's Water Festival, Des Moines, for creating a venue to teach water quality values and activities to thousands of Iowa children each year.

Special Recognition in Air Quality: Five Seasons Transportation and Parking, Cedar Rapids, for converting its entire 50-bus fleet to run on biodiesel, a renewable energy resource that reduces air pollution.

Special Recognition in Habitat Restoration/Development: City of Decorah, for protecting a stretch of the upper Iowa River valley through the development of an 11-acre filter strip, 24-acre prairie and one-acre butterfly garden to be cared for by the community.

Complete details about each award winner and the awards program are available at: www.iowadnr.com. For more information, contact Julie Tack at (515) 281-8665; e-mail: Julie.Tack@dnr.state.ia.us

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DNR Offers Photovoltaic Education Tools

With funding from the U.S. Dept. of Energy, the DNR has created a menu of materials and workshops to help building designers and owners adopt photovoltaic (PV) solar systems.

On April 29 and 30, the DNR is hosting a workshop in Kansas City for architects and engineers across the Midwest about incorporating PV into new and existing buildings. Continuing education credits are available for attendees. Information about the workshop is available at: www.state.ia.us/dnr/energy/events/index.htm

Along with the workshop, the DNR has created a PV Yellow Pages and a series of case studies on PV applications. The Yellow Pages provide a listing of PV manufacturers, designers and retailers from Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska and Wisconsin. The four case studies provide technical overviews of PV applications across the Midwest, including on existing homes, pond aeration, and more. Both the Yellow Pages and case studies are available at: www.state.ia.us/dnr/energy/programs/solar

For more information about solar energy programs available through the DNR, or for PV workshop details, contact Dave Evans at (515) 281-6150; e-mail: Dave.Evans@dnr.state.ia.us

Free Wind Energy Workshop for Consumer-Owned Utilities

The Iowa DNR is sponsoring a free one-day workshop on wind energy, April 24 in Mason City. Workshop presenters will discuss successful utility-scale, wind energy projects in Iowa and the Midwest. Attendees also will learn how wind power can help meet the 2004 Iowa green power program requirement, which requires all utilities to offer alternate energy purchase programs, based on energy produced in Iowa. The target audience for the workshop includes directors, CEOs/managers and key employees of consumer-owned and municipal utilities, as well as others interested in wind energy development.

For registration information, contact Jennifer Moehlmann with the DNR at (515) 281-8518; e-mail: Jennifer.Moehlmann@dnr.state.ia.us

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Iowa Renewable Energy Resource Guide Now Available

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources has published the 2002 *Iowa Renewable Energy Resource Guide*. This 52-page publication provides a comprehensive review of renewable energy resources, projects and organizations in the state. Resources described in the book include wind energy, solar, hydropower, renewable transportation fuels, methane energy recovery and other forms of biomass.

The guide is available electronically at: www.state.ia.us/dnr/energy/pubs. Or contact Julie Tack with the DNR at (515) 281-8665; e-mail: Julie.Tack@dnr.state.ia.us to receive a copy.

Tahtinen Heads National Energy & Agriculture Committee

Sharon Tahtinen, special assistant to the DNR director, has been tapped to lead the Agriculture and Rural Development Task Force for the National Association of State Energy Offices (NASEO).

In her role, Tahtinen will help direct NASEO's efforts to develop programs and exchange information on such agriculture-related issues as bio-energy, efficiency of agriculture operations, and renewable energy applications in farm facilities. The task force also provides guidance to federal agencies on energy-related agriculture opportunities to reduce energy use and develop renewable resources. One of the task force's major goals will be to provide input on implementation of the federal farm bill.

NASEO is a non-profit association of state and territory energy offices, along with affiliates from the public and private sectors. The group was created by the National Governors' Association to improve state energy programs and to work effectively with the federal government. Tahtinen joined the 20-member board of directors for NASEO in 2002.

For more information, contact Sharon Tahtinen at (515) 281-7066; e-mail: Sharon.Tahtinen@dnr.state.ia.us